

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

Hoof Prints

June 2023

Issue 59

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org (membership email only)
On the WEB: www.bchcsjsu.org (SJS Unit) or
www.bchcalifornia.org (State)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Gentle Use of California Trails and Backcountry

Presidents Message



Thanks to those that came out for our general meeting. Bailey did an excellent job describing her role as last years intern. This year she was once again chosen as our intern. Unlike last years work party at the gorge we experienced cooler weather with an occasional shower. Thanks to all those who came out to volunteer

their time and especially to Marcie and Ruth for putting this together. Another big thank you to John and Jan for spearheading the clinic and Clovis parade.

Our next event is coming up quickly the raffle ride. Keep an eye out for updates for this June 17th ride.

Our calendar is available both on our website and in our newsletter. Keep an eye on the calendar and hope to see you at one of the events. Thanks to all who continue to participate and those of you who continue to be part of our unit. Don't forget, if you

would like to sponsor a ride we would be glad to have your input.

Big Meadows will open late this year, but there are still a couple of openings for host. If interested check with Jim Knabke for dates.

Remember to stay in the saddle. The ground is hard.

Joe Kaminski
President

CONTEST TIME

Find the Hidden Hoof Print! 

First person to find the hidden hoof print in this newsletter and email Jim Laber @ jim@visaliaidea.com

Will Get A Free
BCHCSJSU Long Sleeve Color T-Shirt

GOOD LUCK!

2023 Calendar

Board Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm at the Clovis Elks Lodge, 535 Woodworth Ave. (Bullard & Woodworth).

Calendar & Ride schedule is on-going, and new events and rides will be published when confirmed.

Note: Dates and events are subject to change or cancellation; calling the contact person is recommended or checking www.bchcsjsu.org

2023

May 2	Board Meeting
May 5-7	San Joaquin River Gorge Work Party/Camp out/Ride
May 16	General Meeting
June 3	Big Meadows Work Party
June 6	Board Meeting
June 17	Raffle Ride Shaver Lake
June 23-29	Edison Work Party
July 5	Board Meeting
July 13-16	Montana de Oro Campout Click for Flyer/Reservation
August 1	Board Meeting
August 4-7	Chamberlain Work Party
September 5	Board Meeting
September 9	Memorial Ride
October 5-9	Coastal Mounted Unit MDO(non unit event)
October 18	Election/General Meeting (Location TBA)
November 3	Board Meeting
November 4	BCHC-SJU Unit Dinner
December 5	Board Meeting
December	Christmas Dinner Will NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR

Is there any activity that you would like to sponsor? We are always looking to improve the club and making it fun for all members. Please submit your ideas, kaminskiclans@gmail.com. You may call 559.909 0505 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:

www.bchcsjsu.org for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,

www.bchcalifornia.org for the State Web Site

The purpose of this publication is to keep its members informed on important issues that affect all horsemen and to inform the membership on up-coming events within the unit. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor & authors and not necessarily shared by BCHC.

DUTCH OVEN MAC & CHEESE

Quick, easy, and super cheesy, this Dutch Oven Mac & Cheese is a great way to make this comfort food classic when camping..

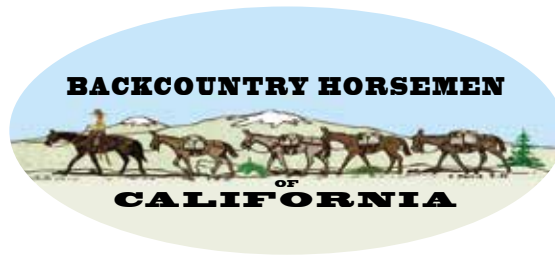
INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups elbow macaroni
- 2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1-2 tablespoons mustard
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 5 oz bag Kettle Brand Jalapeño chips



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare your coals or campfire.
2. Add the elbow macaroni, water, butter, and salt to a 4-qt Dutch oven. Cover and place on top of a small bed of coals or embers. Place 10-15 coals on top of the Dutch oven. Cook for about 10 minutes, until the pasta is tender and most (but not all) of the liquid has been absorbed.
3. Carefully remove the Dutch oven from the campfire and set aside the lid. Stir in the shredded cheese, mustard, and garlic powder and add more salt if needed.
4. Serve in bowls or on a plate, and top with crushed jalapeño Kettle Brand chips. Enjoy!



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Board Meeting April 4, 2023

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute

Roll Taken: President: Joe Kaminski, Vice President: Ruth Cramer Secretary: Carol Kaminski,

Treasurer: Gary Van Sickle Directors: Richard Telles, Tami Telles, Doug Laber, Jim Laber, Jan Mikkelsen, Karen Daugherty, Marcee Hansen, Past President: Duane Peverill

Minutes review and approved: 1st Doug, 2nd Jim

Correspondence:

Committee reports:

Education: Flyer in newsletter.

Membership:

Newsletter: Articles due Apr. 20. 3rd place at Rendezvous. Joe will write for newsletter. Jim to download pictures.

Public lands:

Sunshine:

Shaver Lake: Closed. Shaver Stables lost lease. Liability was the issue. We are not affected.

Big Meadows: Closed. Dates open for hosting - Contact Jim Knabke if interested.

OLD BUSINESS. EVENTS for 2023

Apr. 4 - Board meeting

Apr. 22 Desentizing clinic. Location TBD Help needed. Waivers must be signed by all. Items needed.

April 29 - Clovis Rodeo Parade

May 2 - Board meeting. • May 5-7 - Gorge Work and Ride Campout See Marcee. Clean up needed.

May 17- General Meeting Speaker Ruth to contact Bailey (summer intern) Mileage to be paid. Location to be announced.

June 3 - Big Meadows Open Camp Work Party • June 6- Board meeting • June 17 - Shaver Ride Raffle

June 23-29 Edison Work Party

July 5 (Wed.) Board meeting • July 13-17 - MDO

Aug. 1 - Board Meeting • Aug. 3-7 Chamberlain Work Party

Sept. 5 Board Meeting • Sept. 9 - Memorial Ride (Big Meadows)

Oct. 3 - Board Meeting • Oct. 5-9 CMA Coast Ride (Non club event)

Oct. 18 - Election Meeting 6:30 Location TBD Nov. 4 - Holiday Dinner at Sal's

Nov. 7 - Board Meeting • Nov. Jose' Basin

Dec. 5 - Board Meeting

NEW BUSINESS: 1. American Mule Association - folding pack racks to be donated. Ruth 1st., Doug 2nd

2. Fresno Packers - dinner successful. Sending 2 teams to Bishop.

3. Reedley Pack Team - Kent Kinney/Sue Buckley - Sending team to Bishop. Looking for support. Kathy Pettit to host show.

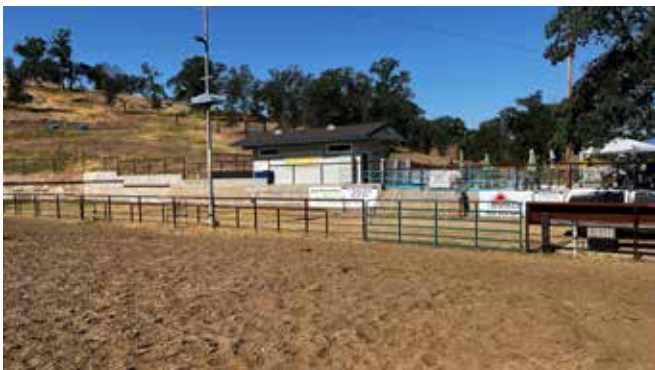
April 21-23. Pack teams to compete.

Next meeting: May 2, 2023

Adjourn: 7:40 Ruth 1st, 2nd Jan

RUSTY SPUR PRACTICE COURSE

A few weeks ago the wife and I decided to travel up to the RUSTY SPUR ARENA to do a practice obstacle course. Charlie has created some pretty interesting obstacles that can challenge you and your mount. Charlie is always looking for more obstacles. The practice days are not judged and you can either do the obstacle or by pass. There is a no pressure on these days. Charlie is there at many of the obstacles to explain how to do the obstacle and help you get your mount through the obstacle. After completing the 30 plus obstacles there is usually a food vendor there for you to purchase a great lunch at a reasonable price. On the day day we did the practice there was breakfast available. After lunch you are free to go out and practice any of the obstacles of your choice. Rusty Spur Arena has plenty of parking and easy access. There are great restroom facilities. Rusty Spur Arena has three practice days before they hold the main judged obstacle course. You must be at one of the practice days in order to participate in the judged event. The next practice and final one is June 17. The Final 2023 Judged Trail Trial is July 15, 2023. Adults \$35.00 and under 18 \$25.00. It was well worth the drive to The Rusty Spur Arena which is located in the foothills above Millerton Lake on your way to Prather. 10925 Rusty Spur Lane, Clovis Calif. Off of Millerton Road.



LIVING WITH RATTLESNAKES

AVOID THE BITE!



THE BITE

Rattlesnakes are members of the pit viper family. They have heat sensors, or pits, on each side of their head below the nostrils that detect infrared. These sensors allow the snake to find its warm blooded prey. The rattlesnake can also follow the trail of its prey by flicking its tongue along the ground. The rattlesnake uses this hunting technique as well as ambushing its prey. When it is within striking distance, which is $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of its body length, it quickly lunges forward and aims for the prey. While in the forward motion, the snake's jaws will open, extending the two top front fangs that are tucked backwards under its upper jaw. These fangs act as hypodermic needles and inject the venom directly into the snake's target. The venom not only subdues the prey, but also begins breaking down the tissue of the prey to make it easier to digest. Usually it is a strike and release, however in some cases the snake will hang on to the victim until the struggling ceases.



One important note to remember is that one should never handle a dead rattlesnake. Although dead, the snake could still have a jerk

reaction and bite you. If you kill a rattlesnake for food, be certain to remove the head first and bury it.

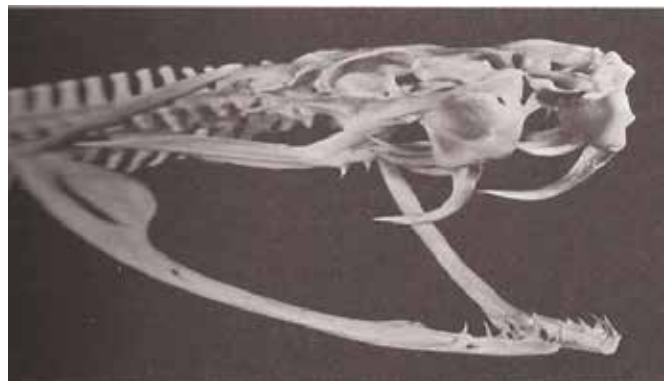
GENERAL INFORMATION

The heads of rattlesnakes found in California are different from other snake species. Most snake species have heads that are the same width as their bodies. However, our rattlesnakes have bulges at the base of their head, giving them a triangular shape. These bulges are where the venom sacks are located. Rattlesnakes are very thick and heavy bodied which makes their tracks easy to distinguish in dirt. They move very slowly with their rattles held up off the ground.

During days of extreme heat, rattlesnakes will seek shelter in the shade, venturing out in the cooler evenings to hunt for food.

Even though it is a dangerous animal, rattlesnakes are not without predators of their own. Raptors consider them fair game and, after killing them with piercing talons, will eat rattlesnakes. Roadrunners also feed on rattlesnakes and will beat them to death with their strong beaks. Opossums are immune to the rattlesnake venom and can help keep them out of your yard. King snakes will imitate a rattlesnake to scare humans away, which usually ends in the snake's death. However, king snakes will often make a meal out of a rattlesnake!

Rattlesnakes will hibernate during cold weather, emerging in the Spring to hunt for food. This is also when you'll see more babies, which are born live in late Fall or early Spring.



AVOID THE BITE!

Rattlesnakes are not out to get you. Their venom is strictly designed for subduing prey and for protection, and they don't want to waste it on humans. By following a few simple rules you can avoid a painful incident.

- Use trails that are cleared enough to allow complete visibility.
- Don't allow children and pets to run ahead of you.
- Do not reach under rocks; be aware of where you put your hands and feet.
- Check the area thoroughly before setting up camp or staking out your stock
- When clearing brush or doing trail work, consider wearing 'gators' for protection, especially if running equipment.
- If you encounter a rattlesnake on the trail, give it a wide berth.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and the trail ahead of you.

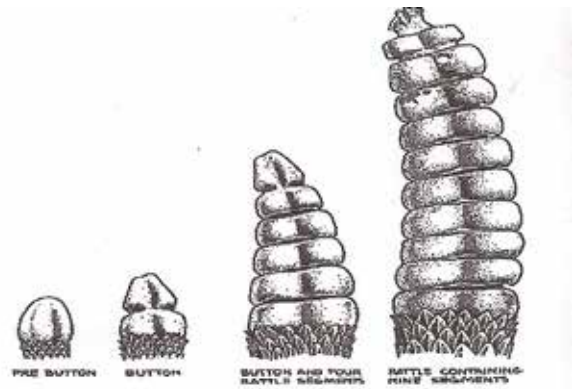
Did you know more people die from rodent related causes than from rattlesnake bites? A rattlesnake's main prey is rodents!



Rattlesnakes can unhinge their jaws, allowing them to swallow large rodents whole. When closing their mouths, the fangs tuck backwards against the roof of the mouth.

Rattlesnakes have a triangular shaped head as demonstrated by this red diamond.

Each time they shed, a new segment is added to their rattle. This can happen 2-3 times per year.



IF BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE

- Keep the bite area still. Try using a splint to immobilize the bite
- Remove anything that could cause constriction if there is swelling
- Keep the area of the bite lower than the heart. Remain calm.
- Seek immediate medical help

IF YOUR HORSE IS BITTEN

Most bites in horses happen in the face. This is due to the horse's natural curiosity when encountering a snake. Swelling of the nose probably will happen and because a horse can only breathe through the nose, suffocation could occur. Take two 5-6" sections of garden hose and insert carefully into each nostril. Using Vaseline or spittle on the end of the hose will help it to glide in smoothly. Do not cut or apply ice to the bite area. Contact a vet immediately. If out on the trail walk your horse slowly to the trailer. Try to keep the horse calm. Remove any tack that might be constrictive during swelling.

If the bite happens in the leg, it might not swell as much. This does not mean that it isn't as serious. Immediately contact your vet and keep your horse calm.

GORGE WORK PARTY

Our work party for The Gorge came and went with much success. On May 5th some of our members gathered together for the 2nd phase of the work on the Pas'an Trail. This time we worked on the worst of the overhead growth that hinders safe passage for equestrians.



Before we could resume with our previous plans, we needed to meet with the recently hired BLM Recreation Planner for The Gorge. During the beginning of the year Ruth Cramer and I met with BLMRP Nathan Bingham to discuss his views of what we had previously arranged with Brian Lunt. When Ruth and I arrived for the meeting with Nathan, Jim and Doug Labor were working on the corrals. They brought their welder to fix the many broken welds on the equestrian corrals. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with Nathan about his ideas for the trails of the recreational area on the San Joaquin River. The 3 of us decided Nathan and I would scout the Pas'an trail to get a better idea of what we wanted to accomplish during the next phase.



As I drove to The Gorge on the morning of April 21st, I thought about all of the man power, materials, and time that goes into maintaining trails for the pleasure of equestrians, hikers and cyclists. Our multi-use trails are very important to all users and everyone needs to be considered in regards to safety and enjoyment. With those thoughts in mind, 6 other equestrians showed up to enjoy the trails. Nathan arrived as I was just finishing tacking my horse. I introduced him to a few of the riders. During the cooler months of the year many of us ride the beautiful trails around the San Joaquin River where The Gorge is located.

Nathan had not had a chance to hike the Pas'an trail prior to our outing. It was quite a relief to know he not only is an advocate for all users of the trails, but is also very passionate about keeping the trails as natural as possible when it comes to signage and maintenance. Upon our return to the trail head, we were both excited to get busy with our plans.



By the time I showed up at camp on the evening of May 5th, Joe and Carol Kaminski had set up camp. Jim and Doug Labor had finished applying new chains to each gate on the corrals. Also, Nathan had been by to have all paperwork completed with Ruth Cramer and Joe. I corralled my horses and then Bethany Smith Bush showed up. We all enjoyed our meal prepared by Joe and Carol. Thanks to Ruth we received a grant from Back County Horsemen of American Unit Support Fund to help fund our work party. With the amount allotted to us we are able to supply our Unit with the proper tools and nutrition to allow our members to perform these fun work weekends. After dinner we sat around the camp fire discussing how we were going to proceed the next morning. And then the relaxation began. It was so nice to be under the stars again with my horses near enough to hear among the spirit and laughter of our comradery.



areas that needed loppers. We made it back to camp by 2.

I want to say thank you to everyone that was able to make it to the Gorge Work Party. The Pas'an trail is a tough one. It is narrow with few places to tie horses. Most of the work requires overhead strength. Many of the trees and bushes grow from above the trail or out of reach below the trail. The branches are difficult to reach due to the steep terrain. In addition, the weather is usually nice, yet is beginning to warm up making it just a little harder on us and our horses. So a big THANK YOU ALL! for taking the time to help maintain the trails so many people enjoy.

The next day, the work day, the (what I call) fun day, the sun rose as did we. Once again Joe and Carol prepared a very much needed meal to start the day off right. While a few of us tacked our horses with Personal Protection Gear, tools, snacks, and lots of water, Carmen Olson, Karen Daugherty, and Lisa Sanli joined us. Joe was able to purchase a really nice pole saw which helped a great deal with all of the high overhead issues that we planned to cut on this trip. We headed out at 11am and worked until just after 4pm. We came upon 8 areas of dense upper canopies on the south-eastern part of the Pas'an trail. Many of us trimmed as we rode from one canopy area to the next. This time we were able to clear over 4 miles of trail that had been neglected for the last few years.



Once back at camp we all said our "Thank You's" as some of our members packed up to return home. Doug, Jim, and I decided to stay another day. We had an important destination on the trail. There was one area that was very difficult to pass while mounted on our horses. The next morning we woke and headed out. We cleared 5 more areas that required the pole saw and 2



www.bchcsjsu.org

Make sure you check out our website for updates on the Home page, Calendar page, and Newsletters. We also have a Photos page of our latest activities.

If you have any photos send them to Duane at wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

\$.10/word with a 20 word minimum (\$2.00),
\$.50 a line after that.

Display Ad Rate per issue

Business Card Size, \$8.00,	1/2 page, \$35.00,
1/4 page, \$20.00,	Full Page, \$50.00

Prices are subject to change without notice. All prices are for one month, due the 10th of the month. Editor reserves the right to refuse inappropriate ads.

All paid Ads include an E-mail Blast to all members with current emails

Attention

Your SJS Unit Board of Directors would like to invite any of our members to attend the monthly Board meetings or General meetings. It is important all directors have the same opportunity to hear the information, concerns or suggestions you wish to share. We are volunteers doing our best to keep our Unit informed and working smoothly. Refer to the newsletter for the information regarding times and location of upcoming meetings.

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski

1/4 Page Ad

\$20 per Month

**AVAILABLE
ADVERTISING
SPACE**

"Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

Check out the latest edition of "Travel Advantage", @ www.ytbtravel.com/bchc a travel newsletter full of terrific deals from YTB, our BCHC travel partner. The newsletter is chock full of great ideas for anyone's next getaway! You can download an icon to your computer desktop for instant connection to the BCHC Getaway website.

Please forward "Travel Advantage" newsletter to your friends and family and other BCHC supporters. The more we get the word out, the more people will use the BCHC Getaway travel site to take advantage of great rates on hotels, flights, rental cars and other travel-related items, the more BCHC will earn for our Treasury!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the travel site, how it works or what BCHC earns by participating in this great opportunity. Thank you for supporting and promoting BCHC Getaway!!

C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator
cjohargreaves@verizon.net

2021 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President

Joe Kaminski, 559.909 0505
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

Vice President

Ruth Cramer, 559 417 3878
racramer@outlook.com

Secretary

Carol Kaminski, 559-733-9170
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gary Van Sickle, 559-288-0301
gwvansickle@outlook.com

DIRECTORS

Term Expires at end of year:

Marcee Hansen, 559-977-9472
jamn4jabez@yahoo.com
2022

Jan Mikkelsen,
jessecowboy@comcast.net
2022

Susan Van Sickle 559-779-4105
gwvansickle@gmail.com
2022

Karen Daughrity, 559-903-5552
k_daughrity@yahoo.com
2023

Doug Laber, 559-786-6634
douglaber@gmail.com
2023

Richard Tellis, 559-855-3909
wildhorsetami594@gmail.com
2023

Tami Tellis, 559-855-3909
wildhorsetami594@gmail.com
2023

COORDINATORS

Membership/Mailing Coordinator

Jan Mikkelsen,
jessecowboy@comcast.net

Public Lands Liaison

Joe Kaminski, 559-733-9170
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Jim Laber, 559-250-7906
jim@visaliaidea.com

Education Coordinator

Jim Laber, 559-250-7906
jim@visaliaidea.com

Sunshine

Pat Peverill, 559-824-1119
ppeverill@sebastiancorp.net

Shaver Lake Camp Host

Ruth Cramer, 559-417-3878
racramer@outlook.com

Web Wrangler

Duane Peverill, 559-908-3138
wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

Facebook

Paige Stambach, 559-909-3930
paigestambach@gmail.com

Big Meadows Horse Camp

Jim Knabke, 559-299-3254
jjknabke@comcast.net

ADVISORS

Past President

William Duane Peverill
559-908-3138
wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

DESENSITIZATION CLINIC COMEBACK 2023!!!!

By: Jan Mikkelsen



April 15, BCHC-SJSU put on a great clinic..(if we do say so ourselves!). This years clinic was held at the Fresno Police Horse Training Facility which was a great location with plenty of parking and a nice arena. This arena is at the end of the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, so during Friday's set up, the fighter jets flew literally right over head, rather unnerving at times, at least for me. I was a little worried about how the horses would handle it on Saturday (the PD horses are used to it), but fortunately they did not fly on Saturday. Many commercial planes flew over the arena, but only one was noisy enough to give the horses a little spook. This was fine however since that was what the clinic was all about....exposure.

Considering there were several other horse events the same day, turnout was great with about 35 member and non- member participants. We had lots of fun items to challenge the horses....bears, rabbits, skeletons, tarps, whirlys, umbrellas and 'bubbles'. When we broke for lunch we were served yummy tacos, beans, chips and salsa cooked by 'Fred' of the Fresno County Sheriffs.

Thanks so much to the Fresno PD for the facility, Fresno Sheriffs and Duane Peverill, Jim Dixon, Doug, (Jim's friend,) and John Mikkelsen for putting this all together, and to those who all came to make this a awesome day.

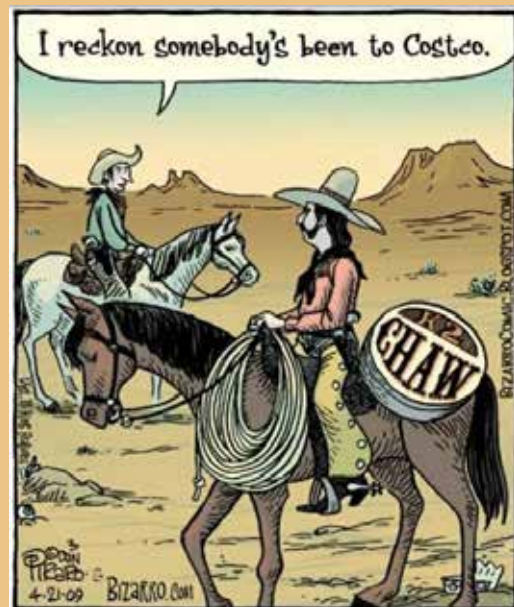


SUNSHINE CORNER

Stay Safe Everyone
and Happy Trails



The Lighter Side



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

2022

Brandy, Josiah and Brayden Robison, Toll House

Robert & Ashley Goodman, Fresno

Sara Quinn, Sanger

Lisa Sanli, Bakersfield

Todd Street, Bakersfield

Kurt Billingsly, Danville

Chris Dokendorf, Raymond

Robert & Ashley Goodman

Summer & Jake Price

Scott Long and Family

Leann Seroka

Alain & Danielle Jeschien

We Love To Make You Look Good!

IDEA!
PRINTING & GRAPHICS INC.

(559) 733-4149

Fax: (559) 636-3690

orders@visaliaidea.com • www.visaliaidea.com

1921 E. Main Street • Visalia, CA 93292

Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

*Contributing to your success,
one impression at a time!*





JUNE 17, 2023

BBQ RAFFLE RIDE

- OPEN TO EVERYONE
- INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
- \$25 members
- \$35 non-members

• \$10 youth

Includes:

- Coffee
- Doughnuts
- BBQ
- 5 Raffle Tickets

Best Find Takes the Prize!

(Additional Raffle tickets
can be purchased)

- Donation items are Welcome
- Bring drinks for you
- Bring water for your Horse
- Bring a chair

• **Directions to Event:**

Highway 168 to Shaver Lake, CA.
Turn East on Dinkey Creek Road.
Follow the signs to Fishing Camp
4.3 miles on the left. Follow dirt
road on the left to the parking
area at the Trail Head.

Gate opens at 8:00 am,
saddle up at 9:00 am,
on the trail by 10:30 am

R.S.V.P. by June 11
to reserve your spot

Marcee Hansen: 559-977-9472
or Ruth Cramer: 559-417-3878

Please be advised: no Stallions,
no Dogs, & no Alcohol on trail.



Black Bear Essentials to Remember

The following are what we bears would like you humans to remember.

You Must Be Alert

Please Do Not Surprise Me

You Are Being Aggressive If You:

Get between me and my cub

Are anywhere near a carcass

It's my food!

Walk directly towards me

Circle or crowd me

I need an escape route!

Try to take "your" food away from me

It's mine!



The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks.

Avoid a Confrontation

Separate cooking and sleeping areas

Store food and garbage properly

Keep a clean camp site

Avoid a Confrontation: Watch for these Signs

Large areas of torn up ground

Rocks or boulders turned over

Logs or stumps torn apart

Fish or dead animals

Berries

Claw marks on trees

Bear scat

Remember: Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous

Bears habituated to food are dangerous

Do not run

Try to look larger than you are

Do not bend down

Each situation is different

REMEMBER

Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell. Bears are attracted to and will eat anything with an odor. While not normally aggressive towards humans, bears are possessive of their food and will defend it. They are very quick and powerful. **DO NOT TRY TO RETRIEVE YOUR FOOD FROM A BEAR.** If a bear gets into your food, stay a safe distance away and then be sure to clean up the mess afterwards. Report incidents to a ranger. You can keep bears wild and alive by storing your food properly. Just use some thought and preparation.

PROPER FOOD STORAGE FOR BACKCOUNTRY USERS

On some trails you may be visited by bears every night. On others, you may not see bears your entire trip; however, that does not mean that bears do not live in that area. In all cases, the best way to store your food properly is in a portable, BEAR-RESISTANT CANISTER OR PANNIER. Safe food storage is as simple as placing the locked canister or pannier on the ground 50 feet from your camp. **THIS METHOD OF FOOD STORAGE IS THE ONLY PROVEN, EFFECTIVE WAY TO STORE YOUR FOOD.** It is required in some areas of the backcountry that you store your food in bear-resistant containers. Please check with the agencies about requirements before starting your trip. Canisters are for sale and rent at sporting goods stores and some ranger stations. Panniers are available through some saddle shops. Using a bear-resistant container allows for maximum freedom and safety while traveling and when choosing a camp location. The counter-balance method should be your last resort. This method is hard to do well, requires trees and rope, and bears often thwart it. In fact, bears will probably get your food if you do not get out of your warm bed and make some mighty loud noise and keep a sentinel on watch after the first visit.

PROPER FOOD STORAGE AT CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILHEADS

Food storage is just as important at campgrounds and trailheads. Having more people and vehicles around doesn't mean there is less danger of losing your food. To a bear, more people means more food. **STORE ALL FOOD IN FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE.** If there are no lockers, then store the food and ice chest in your vehicle (better in the trunk), keep them covered and out of sight. Leaving food in your vehicle at the trailhead while you are in the



The content of this written material has been officially approved for distribution by
Backcountry Horsemen of California 13061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G Box 217, Bakersfield, Ca. 93314
www.bchcalifornia.org 4/11

CLOVIS RODEO PARADE

By: Jan Mikkelson



WELLLL...WE DID IT!!! Woohoo! We cowgirls rock!! 204 was our number on this perfect Saturday, April 29th, and we were actually the second group out behind the big VIP group in the route. Time whizzed by with Belinda Dominguez and Renee Badertscher as flag bearers and Angela Ausman, Patty Pereen and myself following behind. There were so many more spectators this year, many who clapped after hearing our unit's mission and hats taken off when the glorious American flag was carried by. I was very impressed by the crowd and their reactions. Bob Herrick had started out with his mini donkeys and matching pack panniers, but when they saw the crowd and horses gathering they decided they wanted nothing to do with it. (On their behalf, these adorable little donkeys were quite new to all of this excitement and it was only their 2nd time out in public!). So, for the first time, we had no pack mules coming along behind us. I am sure next year the minis will be ready to go. Bob had gotten these donkeys and outfitted them for his two grandsons. On Sunday, by the way, his grandson Jayden, won the mutton busting at the Clovis Rodeo. Good job Jayden!

Thanks so much to the ladies for being in the parade and to John Mikkelson for being the ground crew. Everyone was great and thanks for being there.





Jayden Herrick wins Mutton Busting at the 2023 Clovis Rodeo Finals

As a grandparent, I am always looking for fun activities I can share with my grandchildren. When I heard that applications were being accepted for mutton busting at the 2023 Clovis Rodeo, I asked the grandkids if they wanted to give it a try, and they said sure. The criteria was that the child had to be between the ages of 5-7 and be less than 60 pounds. I have three grandchildren that met the eligibility requirements, so I filled out an application for each and turned them in.

The rodeo committee needed a total of 50 mutton busters for this year, because they had a total of 5 shows, and needed 10 contestants for each show. They did a drawing from all the applicants and selected the 50 lucky children. Two of my three grandkids got selected. Eli was selected for the Thursday night show and Jayden was chosen for the finals on Sunday afternoon. We all attended an informational meeting the Saturday before the Rodeo to learn about how the event would work and what was expected. While at the meeting they gave each contestant a cowboy hat, red scarf, and a mutton busting belt buckle.

The contest consisted of two parts. The first was a best dressed component and the second was the actual ride on the sheep. For the best dressed part, they lined up all the contestants in the area and had the audience pick whom they thought was the winner (via applause). The winner received a pair of Justin cowboy boots. Next the contestants all put on their safety gear (helmet and vest) and got ready to ride.

The organizers set up an alley with two chutes and loaded it full of ewes. The contestants were placed on the ewe's back in the chute and instructed to "hold on tight". When everything was ready, they opened the door and off they went. Like bulls and broncs, some of the ewes took off light a rocket, and some had to be coaxed out. Each contestant was scored by the judge based on the length of the ride and how much they were in control. The contestant with the highest score won a silver buckle, and the runner-up won a pair of chaps. Jayden was fortunate enough to stay on the longest during the rodeo finals and won a buckle with a score of 89. Both boys had a wonderful experience and were very pleased they participated.

I would like to personally thank the event organizers and sponsors for putting on a fantastic event. Every aspect was well run, and I was impressed with all the effort that went in to making the event a success. They were able to set up an event that will create lasting memories for the children, while promoting the western lifestyle. Well done!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Herrick



BCHCSJSU SHIRTS

On the trails we work and ride we share the trail with others, that at times have trouble seeing us because of shadows and various modes of transportation used, especially in non wilderness designated areas.

For that reason your unit board of directors has made this shirt available for safety on trail rides and work parties as well as a way to promote our unit and its activities.

Order you BCHCSJSU Trail Work/Riding Shirt

To order call Gary Van Sickle with size and quantity.

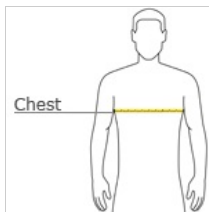
_____ X \$14.65 each _____
(Qty) (Total)

Make checks payable to BCHCSJUS and send to:

Attn: Gary Van Sickle
BCHCSJSU
P.O. Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693



HOW TO MEASURE



CHEST
Measure under the arm and around the fullest part of the chest with arms down, keeping tape horizontal.

SIZE CHART

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56	58-60	62-64

KIDS CORNER



Horse Word Search



G C W X E E M A R E E G P L P Y V Q D S F A B T G
Z Y A Q P T V C X F Y K N L G S V I D U M V M S R
Z L C C O E Q U E S T R I A N N R C D S X J Y M G
C B R O G Z T A I U F J T G Q D D A N U J X B K M
Z E P B X S F E C C A N T E R P D S D Z H Z O Q T
L L G T H O Q W H O R S E D Y W L C K K S X I I J
Y D F C V V L F E B R H E G W W K R D E T P N C G
U M D J O C K E Y P I F R N A X M K Y P A F V X B
S T R O T Q N R Z K E I W R K W P U N B L G I P O
C D S F L Y F A Y W R L S T Y E E X J R L Y C S H
U K L P Z C O L T N B L Q C Q B R S C G I G X I U
D J K H W G A I T M J Y J D Q V H Q G C O N R X B
E S M I O K L Z S X B S H H W R M Q E L N J P I R
G C U A Q T H S Z N N A T X J N I U U F V X A T O
Z N X Z P B K E W A W F A A D K B D Y P H X L S O
Z Y G O Y K H V N Z X V V G Z Z R X M N V V H T D
D J D B A E W W Y Z P F B W A F I Q E U L O A A M
B U C V E W N V S W S P N P A D D O C K P S V B A
K G J A A C V C C D X S C G C Q L P W F Y R C L R
V M V A X I V D G A L L O P A K E B S A D D L E E

Aged

Farrier

Foal

Stallion

Bridle

Filly

Mare

Colt

Broodmare

Jockey

Trot

Horse

Canter

Paddock

Feral

Stable

Equestrian

Saddle

Gallop

Gait

**Backcountry Horsemen
of California**



**MAIL TO: BCHC
MEMBERSHIP
1280 State Rt. 208
Yerington NV 89447**

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)

☐ **New** ☐ **Renewal**
☐ **Change**

(indicate change)

☐ Antelope Valley
☐ Eastern Sierra
☐ High Country
☐ High Sierra
☐ Kern River Valley

☐ Kern Sierra
☐ Lake-Mendo
☐ Los Padres
☐ Mid Valley
☐ Mother Lode

☐ North Bay
☐ Pacific Crest
☐ Redshank Riders
☐ Redwood
☐ San Diego
☐ San Joaquin Sierra

☐ Santa Ana River
☐ Sequoia
☐ Shasta Trinity
☐ Sierra Freepackers
☐ Sutter Buttes
☐ Top of the State

DCTR (your Membership

MEMBER'S NAME – No Business Names, Print Clearly SPOUSE/Co-MEMBER'S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City State Zip Code (full 9 digits if known) () Area Code Phone number

Email Address: (please print legibly)

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (tax deductible) \$

Total Enclosed: \$ Check No.

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

☐ Individual \$50 ☐ Family \$60 ☐ 2 Year Individual \$90 ☐ 2 Year Family \$110 ☐ 3 Year Individual \$125 ☐ 3 Year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 – Benefactor \$100 – Patron \$250 – Mt. Whitney \$500

Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: \$15.00/Unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \$15.00/Unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Add additional choices here

Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.
BCHC members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent Membership.

*A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

These special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit affiliation.

**Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is
available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at
bchcalifornia.org
or call (775) 463-3634**

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual	\$ 90.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family	\$110.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney Membership	\$500.00

On that form, I also requested:

Associate Memberships \$

My Total Remittance: \$

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

**Verification of
BCHC
membership**

is available via (1)
BCHC unit
president's
reports (2)
BCHC
membership
chair reports (3)
a self- addressed
stamped
envelope
submitted with
this form or (4)
a valid email
address



Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors




Your unit pays the cost of maintaining and hosting the Big Meadows horse camp. We are seeking sponsors (8) in total that will be exclusive to the Business/Industry type. Sponsorships are \$500 each per calendar year. Sponsors will be advertised on our web page, our facebook page, at the camp, and in our monthly newsletter. Please show your support to these sponsors. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor please contact Joe Kaminski at (559) 909-0505. If interested in being a camp host for this season, contact Jim Knabke at (559) 779-4715.



CARA'S BLUEPRINT EXPRESS
559.901.3936
 2109 East Main Street • Visalia, CA 93292
 email: CarasBlueprint@sbcglobal.net
www.carasblueprint.com



www.visaliaidea.com
 1921 E. Main St.
 Visalia, CA 93292
 PH 559-733-4149
 FAX 559-636-3690



IDEA!
 PRINTING & GRAPHICS INC.
 orders@visaliaidea.com



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA
HIGH SIERRA UNIT

Dr. Karl J Pendegraft, DDS
 5415 w hillsdale vis 93291
 559-733-1097

**Cathie Walker
 Riddle Ranch**

Available

**The Pendegraft
 Family**

JOYCE AND MIC

Available



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

**P.O. Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693**

Objectives & Purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California

From the BCHC Bylaws

- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horseman on all public lands.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new legis-lation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the back-country and to help educate backcountry users on the ways to use the trail and foraged in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.
- To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.
- To assist in the formation and continuation of local Units to carry out these purposes.